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## RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS

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For additional information and assistance on material covered in this brochure:

### *Department of the Youth Authority*

Victim Services Division  
4241 Williamsborough Drive, Suite 214  
Sacramento, California 95823  
(916) 262-1534 or Toll Free  
**(888) HE GOT CYA / (888) 434-6829**  
**(800) 555-6469 TTY Line**  
(916) 262-1181 Fax  
opvs@cya.ca.gov

### *Youth Authority Board*

3336 Bradshaw Road, Suite 255  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
(916) 255-4495  
(916) 255-4410 Fax

For financial assistance to crime victims:

### *Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board*

P.O. Box 3036  
Sacramento, California 95812-3036  
(800) 777-9229

For additional resources/assistance:

### *Victims of Crime Resource Center*

McGeorge School of Law  
1 (800) VICTIMS / (800) 842-8467

### *Victim/Witness Assistance Centers*

(Call your local District Attorney's Office)

# HE GOT CYA

## *California Youth Authority Information for Victims of Crime*

State of California  
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

Youth and Adult Correctional Agency  
RODERICK Q. HICKMAN, Secretary

Department of the Youth Authority  
WALTER ALLEN III, Director

Office of Prevention and Victims Services  
KIP LOWE, PH.D., Assistant Director



2005

The offender responsible for the crime committed against you and/or your family was sent to the California Youth Authority (CYA). We have developed this brochure in response to several commonly asked questions.

### *Who gets sent to the CYA?*

There are three ways an offender may be sent to the CYA:

- 1) if they are committed by a juvenile court.
- 2) if they are tried as an adult and committed by a criminal court; or
- 3) if they are tried as an adult and committed to the California Department of Corrections (CDC) but ordered housed in a CYA facility.

The CYA houses offenders between the ages of 12-25. Offenders who have been committed to the CDC may be transferred to an adult facility on or before their 18th birthday. The District Attorney's Office or the Probation Department in the county from which the offender was committed can provide you with information regarding why the offender was sent to the CYA.

Each offender is assigned to a program based on their age, maturity level, educational needs, program availability, and the seriousness of their committing offense. The institutions and camps are located through out California.

Unless otherwise noted, the following information applies to all offenders, both male and female.

### *What are the CYA's responsibilities?*

The primary responsibility of the CYA is to protect the public. One way this is done is by providing the offender with supervision, treatment, training, and education to become a productive, law-abiding member of society.

High school age offenders are required to attend school full-time. Those that complete their high school education may participate in a college program, vocational training, or a combination of both. Offenders may be assigned paid jobs such as landscaping, food preparation, or janitorial work. If they receive wages, some of those funds are collected to pay their court-ordered restitution.

After orientation, offenders participate in a specific treatment program based on identified issues they need to address. Each program encompasses a victim awareness component.

Every offender is assigned a youth correctional counselor who provides individual and small group counseling.

The counselor will monitor their institutional program and report progress to the Youth Authority Administrative Committee (YAAC).

### *What does the YAAC do?*

Each year, the offender's case is reviewed by the YAAC to assess their progress. This is called an Annual Case Review. The YAAC is also responsible for determining the date of the next Annual Case Review, and conducting Projected Board Date Reviews, Furlough Reviews, and WIC 1800 Reviews.

The YAAC can decrease the Projected Board Date (PBD) during the Annual Case Review based on the offender's performance in a variety of program areas. These areas include treatment and counseling, education, employability training, and the overall behavior of the offender. You may request to attend the review or submit a victim impact statement.

*How do offenders get paroled?*

Upon commitment to the CYA, a PBD is set based on the most recent offense. On or before that date, the offender will appear before the Youth Authority Board (YAB) for a Parole Consideration Hearing. The YAB can release the offender to parole if they determine the offender has successfully completed all of the established program goals. At this hearing, the YAB reviews the offender's progress with the offender present. The offender is expected to acknowledge and discuss his/her victimizing behavior. You may request to attend the hearing or submit a victim impact statement.

If the YAB releases the offender to parole, the YAB will impose standard parole conditions, which includes paying restitution, contact with an assigned parole agent, submitting to searches, and not leaving the state without permission.

The YAB may also set special conditions of parole. Special conditions of parole are specifically ordered according to the individual needs of the case and may include participating in counseling or substance abuse treatment, testing for substance use, and not associating with negative peers. As a victim, you may request special conditions of parole that the offender have no contact with you.

CDC offenders housed in the CYA are usually released to parole when their fixed sentence has been served and do not appear for a hearing. The CDC provides parole supervision for CDC offenders.

In some cases, CDC offenders are transferred to state prison where they will complete the remainder of their sentence. The CYA no longer has responsibility for these offenders.

*What happens on parole?*

The offender is assigned a parole agent who is required to monitor the offender's progress and to help him/her become a productive and law-abiding member of the community. Parole offices provide offenders with educational and employment opportunities, counseling, substance abuse treatment, parenting programs, and life skills training.

Parole offices are located throughout California. You are welcome to contact the parole office and talk with the parole agent or the designated Victims Services Coordinator. Some information about the offender, however, may be confidential.

If an offender commits a new crime, or violates a condition(s) of parole, his/her parole may be revoked.

If parole is revoked, the offender will be returned to an institutional or camp setting for continued treatment and training.

*How does someone get off parole?*

The CYA has a maximum amount of jurisdiction time which expires on either the offender's 21st or 25th birthday, depending on the crime committed.

The offender can earn an early discharge from parole supervision by meeting or exceeding parole conditions for a significant period of time and paying restitution in full.

Offenders committed to the CYA can earn an honorable discharge by meeting behavioral and treatment program expectations. In addition, offenders are expected to pay off their court-ordered restitution.

Offenders may be dishonorably discharged if they fail to follow their parole conditions by the time the CYA's jurisdiction ends or if they are convicted of a new crime.

You can contact local parole offices by looking under State of California Youth Authority, in your telephone book.

*What are your rights as a victim?*

The Victims Bill of Rights gives you the right to be informed regarding the status of the offender responsible for the crime against you, if you request notification. As a victim, the next of kin of a victim who was killed, or the parent of a minor who was victimized, you have the right to be informed of the following:

*If requested, all victims can:*

- Be informed if the offender escapes and notified when they are caught.
- Be informed of the date and time of all hearings scheduled to consider the release of the offender to parole or furlough.
- Express your views to the YAAC/YAB in person, in writing or on video / audio tape.

- Be informed of changes in the anticipated release date.
- Designate a family or household member or legal counsel representative who will be afforded the rights to which you are entitled.
- Receive court-ordered restitution.
- Be informed of where the offender is housed while in the CYA.

*In addition to the above, some victims are entitled to:*

- Be informed and to express your views any time the offender is being considered for release custody on furlough or to a pre-release program.
- Be informed of the actual date the offender is scheduled for release from custody on furlough or parole.
- Be informed of the community where the offender will reside when released on parole and to request that they not be located within 35 miles of your home.
- Be informed of the date and basis for the discharge of the offender from CYA jurisdiction.